

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

SUBJECT Announcement of New Soviet Policy to Modernize
USIA-controlled Austrian Firms

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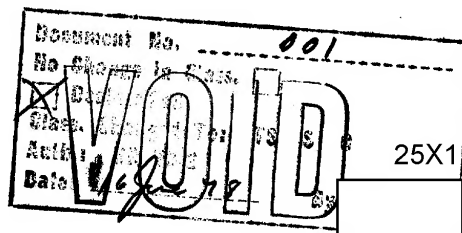
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After an absence of several months, Vladimir TIKHOMIROV has returned from the Soviet Union to Vienna and has resumed his position as Soviet Director General of USIA. During a series of conferences with the general directors of leading USIA enterprises he has announced a new USIA policy. USIA plans to spend over 1,000,000 dollars to purchase machinery and technical equipment in various West European countries as well as in Austria. This machinery will be used to modernize the most valuable Austrian factories now controlled by USIA. The purpose of this modernization program is to improve production methods and increase the output of these factories to such an extent that when ECA aid to Austria is terminated, USIA enterprises will be able to play a predominant role in Austria's industrial life.

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